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Plants and the Sun

Thea Franklin · Illustrated by Margo Burian



Fiction
Go Away, Sun!



Nonfiction
Plants and Their Food



Benchmark Book

Level K

Humorous Fiction
Expository

Reading Characteristics

- Average sentence length: 11 words
- Interest level is intermediate/middle school
- Abstract concepts and technical words in context and challenging vocabulary common
- Variety of writing styles
- Story has one main plot that may span a longer period of time and a solution with multiple events
- Characters with different perspectives
- Dialogue of several speakers on a single page (with or without speaker tags) introduced
- Adult paragraphing occurs in all books
- Supportive text-picture match

Nonfiction Features

- Contents Page
- Headings
- Flow Chart
- Glossary

Literacy by Design Benchmark Book: *Plants and the Sun*

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Go Away, Sun!

It was another beautiful day, and the warm sun blazed in the sky. Everyone thought the weather was wonderful. Everyone, that is, except the flowers.



“It’s too hot today,” Tulip cried. “My beautiful petals are starting to turn brown and fall off.”

“It’s too dry,” Marigold whispered. “My roots haven’t had water in days.”



All of the flowers agreed that the sun had to go away for a little while to give them a break from the heat.

“Maybe we could send the sun on a trip!” said Tulip.

“Where would the sun go?” asked Marigold.

The flowers thought long and hard for a moment.





Buttercup's little voice perked up and said, "We need the sun. The sun should stay where it is."

The flowers did not agree with the little yellow flower. They shook their heads, spreading their dry petals along the ground.

“I know,” said Tulip, “maybe we can sing the sun to sleep!”

All of the flowers raised their heads and sang as loudly as they could, but their tiny voices weren’t loud enough. The sun was still shining brightly.





“Excuse me,” said Buttercup again.
“We *need* the sun because the sun’s light helps us make food.”

“Yes, we need sunlight, but too much sun is not good,” said Tulip.

“Wait! Did you feel that?” asked Buttercup.

First one raindrop fell, then another, and then another. A rain cloud had moved across the sky. The sun was still shining, but wonderful drops of water softly fell from above.

The flowers lifted their petals to the rain and breathed a sigh of relief.

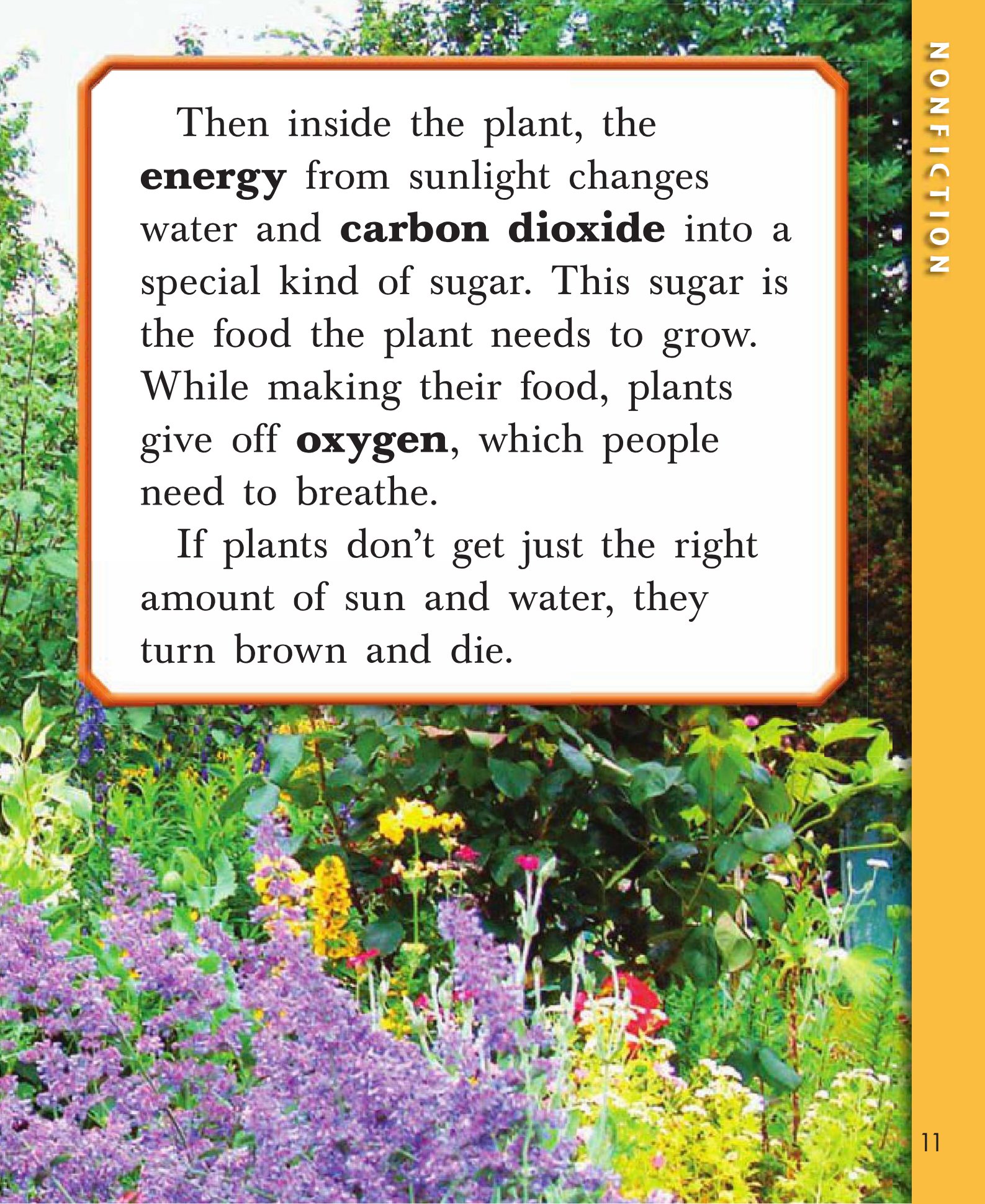
“The sun and the rain together,” said Buttercup, “make great weather!”





Plants and Their Food

Did you know that plants make their own food? They soak up sunlight through their leaves, and they soak up water through their **roots**.



Then inside the plant, the **energy** from sunlight changes water and **carbon dioxide** into a special kind of sugar. This sugar is the food the plant needs to grow. While making their food, plants give off **oxygen**, which people need to breathe.

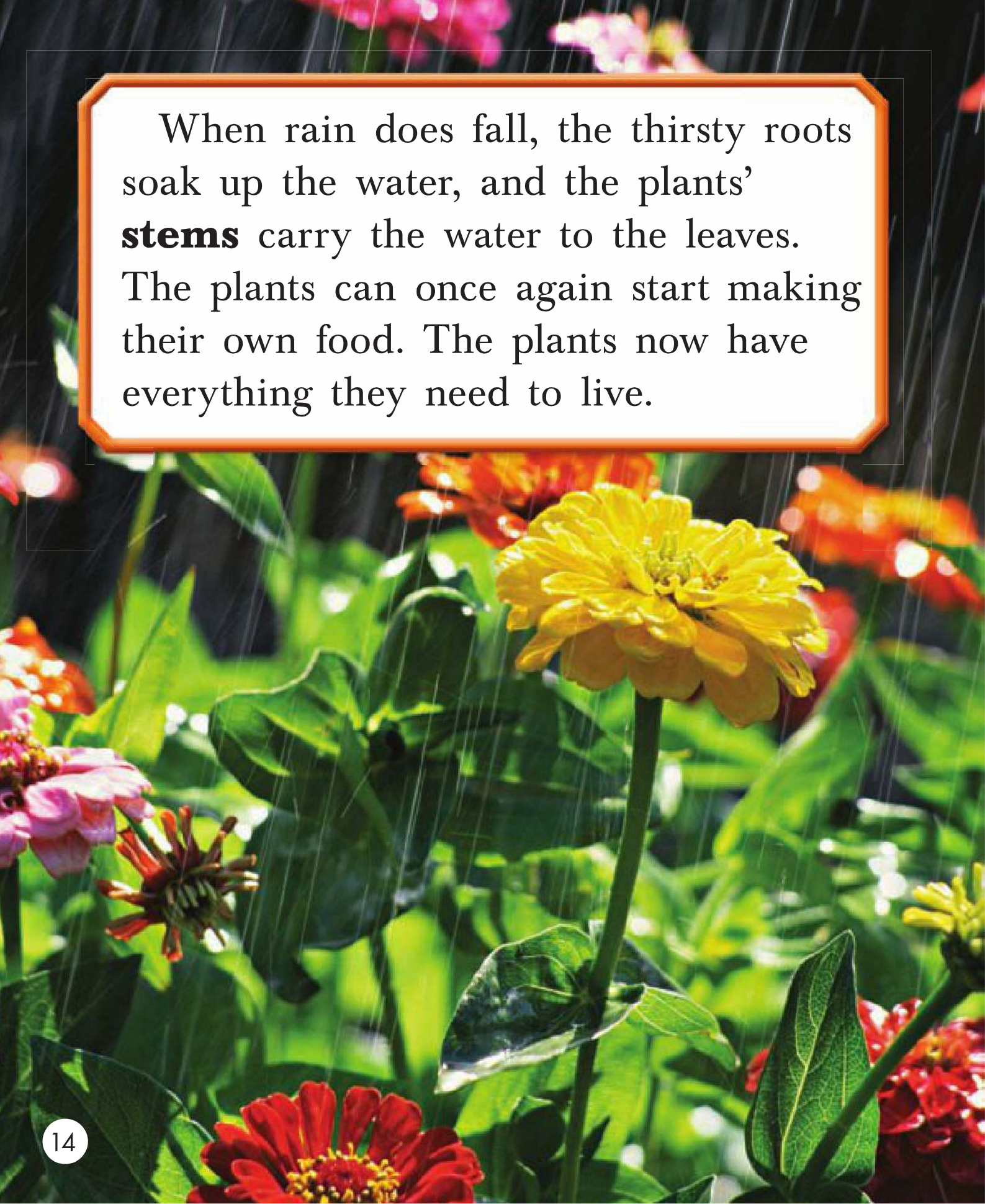
If plants don't get just the right amount of sun and water, they turn brown and die.

A **drought** happens when no rain has fallen for a very long time. There is plenty of sun but not enough water.

At first sunlight helps plants grow. But if the sun continues to shine and no rain falls, the ground becomes hard and dry. The roots have no water to soak up, and the plants have no way to make food. The leaves on the plants begin to turn brown and dry up. If it doesn't rain for a very long time, these plants will die.

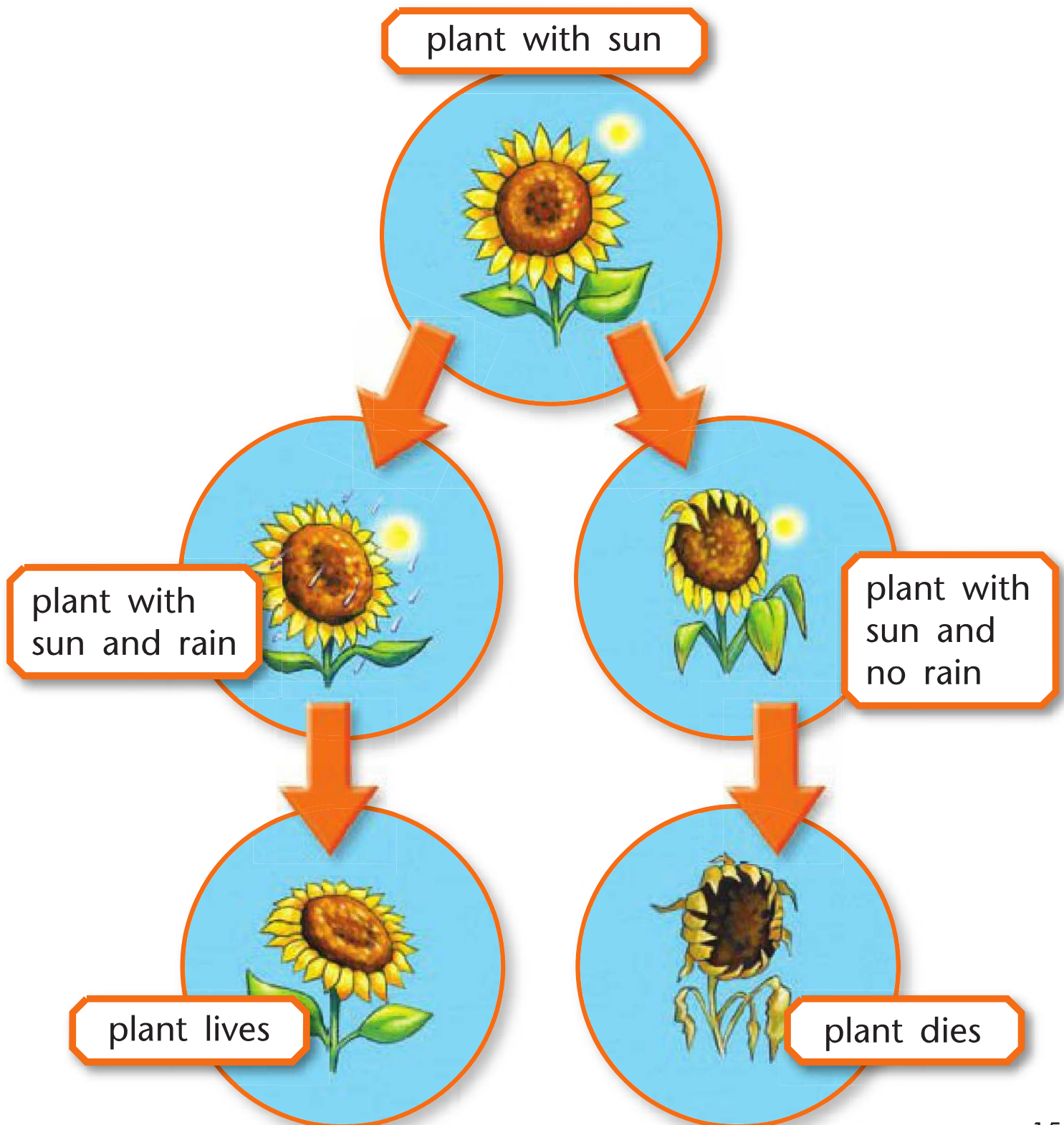




A close-up photograph of a garden filled with various flowers, including a prominent yellow daisy-like flower in the center. Rain is falling vertically across the scene, creating a soft, blurred effect on the background and foreground foliage. The flowers are in various colors, including yellow, red, and pink. The overall atmosphere is fresh and vibrant.

When rain does fall, the thirsty roots soak up the water, and the plants' **stems** carry the water to the leaves. The plants can once again start making their own food. The plants now have everything they need to live.

Plants With and Without Water



Glossary

carbon dioxide colorless gas that people breathe out and plants need

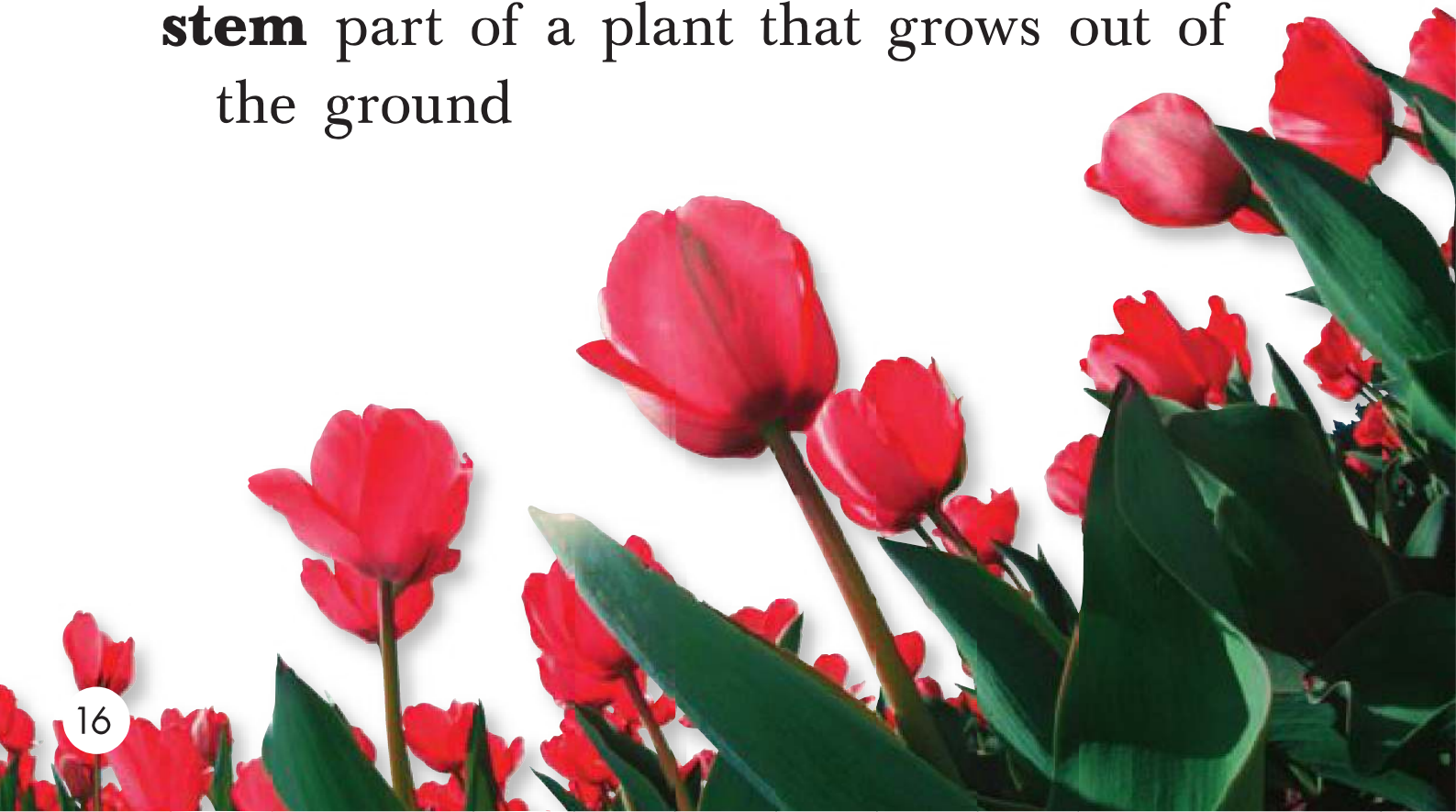
drought long period of time with no rain

energy power

oxygen colorless gas that plants give off and people breathe

root part of a plant that grows under the ground

stem part of a plant that grows out of the ground





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